



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 6598***

*January Session, 2003*

***AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S TEACHER SHORTAGE,  
PILOT EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING PROGRAMS, ENGLISH AS A  
SECOND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING  
FOR TEACHERS AND TEACHER PREPARATION COURSES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) (a) The Department of  
2       Higher Education, in collaboration with the Board for State Academic  
3       Awards, shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to  
4       prepare paraprofessionals who have been successful in the classroom  
5       for teaching careers. Under the program, the department shall provide  
6       scholarships to paraprofessionals employed by priority school districts  
7       pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes, who seek to  
8       become certified teachers in shortage subject areas pursuant to section  
9       10-8b of the general statutes.

10       (b) The scholarships shall not exceed (1) three thousand dollars per  
11       year, or (2) the combined cost of the tuition and fees at the institution  
12       of higher education the paraprofessional is attending or will attend,  
13       whichever is less. A paraprofessional may receive up to five annual  
14       scholarships. The department shall establish criteria for  
15       paraprofessionals for participation in the program and procedures for  
16       the repayment of the amount of the scholarships provided pursuant to  
17       this section if the paraprofessional does not teach in a priority school  
18       district in a shortage subject area upon completion of the program.

19 (c) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall identify  
20 institutions of higher education to provide the necessary teacher  
21 training for the program. Each priority school district shall select  
22 paraprofessionals to participate in the program based on the criteria  
23 established by the department pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
24 section and in consultation with the institutions of higher education.

25 (d) For purposes of this section, "paraprofessional" means an  
26 employee of a local or regional board of education who holds a  
27 position that does not require a certificate issued by the State Board of  
28 Education and who serves as an instructional assistant for such local or  
29 regional board of education.

30 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) Notwithstanding the provisions  
31 of subsection (b) of section 10-183g of the general statutes, on and after  
32 July 1, 2003, retirement benefits shall not be prorated and persons age  
33 sixty and older who have ten years or more of service as a teacher in  
34 Connecticut shall receive normal retirement benefits computed in  
35 accordance with subsection (a) of section 10-183g of the general  
36 statutes.

37 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-183e of the general statutes is  
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
39 *1, 2003*):

40 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this  
41 section, additional credited service, but not to exceed an aggregate of  
42 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this  
43 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a  
44 Connecticut teacher; and not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the  
45 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each  
46 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided  
47 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such  
48 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;  
49 and for any member receiving certification through an alternate route  
50 program approved by the State Board of Education, up to one year for

51 each three years of service of active full-time service as a Connecticut  
52 teacher and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service  
53 described in this subsection. In no event, however, may any service  
54 described in this subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or  
55 is, or will become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon  
56 such service from any governmental system other than the teachers'  
57 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional  
58 credited service includes:

59 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents  
60 established by the United States Department of Defense;

61 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its  
62 territories or possessions;

63 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as  
64 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the  
65 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;

66 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

67 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July  
68 1, 1965;

69 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North  
70 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

71 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to  
72 September 1, 1948;

73 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted  
74 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least  
75 one school year;

76 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the  
77 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the [Newington  
78 Children's Hospital] Connecticut Children's Medical Center;

79 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the  
80 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public  
81 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,  
82 provided eighteen days of such service shall equal one month of  
83 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

84 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than  
85 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed  
86 thirty months;

87 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any  
88 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or  
89 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least  
90 one school year;

91 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the  
92 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years; and

93 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps.

94 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Department of Education  
95 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide  
96 three-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to beginning certified teachers in  
97 priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general  
98 statutes. Teachers shall be eligible for the bonus for the first year they  
99 teach in such a district. The department shall provide funds to each  
100 priority school district to increase the salary of eligible teachers.

101 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Department of Education  
102 shall establish, within available appropriations, a program to provide  
103 five-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to certified teachers (1) who agree  
104 to teach a minimum of three years in a school on the list of schools in  
105 need of improvement pursuant to section 10-223b of the general  
106 statutes, or (2) in shortage subject areas pursuant to section 10-8b of the  
107 general statutes.

108 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Commissioner of Education

109 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
110 54 of the general statutes, to set eligibility criteria for the waiving of the  
111 fees for teacher certification examinations administered by the  
112 Department of Education. The commissioner shall waive the fee for  
113 any candidate who meets such criteria.

114       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Board of Trustees for the  
115 Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges, the Connecticut State  
116 University System and The University of Connecticut shall develop  
117 transfer and articulation agreements concerning teacher preparation  
118 programs. Such agreements shall include, but not be limited to,  
119 provisions concerning course requirements and electives, course  
120 transfer policies and practices, admissions requirements and policies of  
121 student recruitment, information and counseling. Such agreements  
122 shall provide that community-technical college students shall be  
123 considered for admission to schools of education according to the same  
124 standards as students native to the university.

125       Sec. 8. Section 10-265j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
126 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

127       The Commissioner of Education shall establish [two] three pilot  
128 early childhood learning programs. The pilot programs shall be  
129 established in priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p or  
130 transitional school districts. One program shall be in a municipality  
131 with a population of fifty to one hundred thousand, inclusive, [and]  
132 one program shall be in a municipality with a population over one  
133 hundred thousand, and one program shall be at Eastern Connecticut  
134 State University. Each pilot program may include a laboratory school  
135 and a model day care program that serves sixty children ages three to  
136 five. The Department of Education shall issue a request for proposals  
137 for the pilot programs. The commissioner shall provide grants in the  
138 amount of one hundred thousand dollars each for purposes of such  
139 pilot programs. The grants shall be provided from the amount  
140 appropriated for purposes of section 10-265f.

141 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is  
142 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
143 *1, 2003*):

144 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide an in-  
145 service training program for its teachers, administrators and pupil  
146 personnel who hold the initial educator, provisional educator or  
147 professional educator certificate. Such program shall provide such  
148 teachers, administrators and pupil personnel with information on (1)  
149 the nature and the relationship of drugs, as defined in subdivision (17)  
150 of section 21a-240, and alcohol to health and personality development,  
151 and procedures for discouraging their abuse, (2) health and mental  
152 health risk reduction education which includes, but need not be  
153 limited to, the prevention of risk-taking behavior by children and the  
154 relationship of such behavior to substance abuse, pregnancy, sexually  
155 transmitted diseases, including HIV-infection and AIDS, as defined in  
156 section 19a-581, violence, child abuse and youth suicide, (3) the growth  
157 and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and  
158 gifted and talented children and children who may require special  
159 education, and methods for identifying, planning for and working  
160 effectively with special needs children in a regular classroom, (4)  
161 school violence prevention and conflict resolution, (5)  
162 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency life saving  
163 procedures, (6) computer and other information technology as applied  
164 to student learning and classroom instruction, communications and  
165 data management, [and] (7) the teaching of the language arts, reading  
166 and reading readiness for teachers in grades kindergarten to three,  
167 inclusive, and (8) second language acquisition in districts where  
168 English language learners are enrolled. The State Board of Education,  
169 within available appropriations and utilizing available materials, shall  
170 assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include:  
171 (A) Holocaust education and awareness; (B) the historical events  
172 surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (C) African-American  
173 history; (D) Puerto Rican history; (E) Native American history; (F)  
174 personal financial management; and (G) topics approved by the state

175 board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part  
 176 of in-service training programs pursuant to this subsection.

177 Sec. 10. Section 10-145a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
 178 subsections (f) and (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

179 (NEW) (f) On and after July 1, 2005, any candidate in a program of  
 180 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall complete,  
 181 within the existing framework of instruction as of June 30, 2002,  
 182 introductory coursework instruction on the characteristics of second  
 183 language learners and second language acquisition.

184 (NEW) (g) On and after July 1, 2005, any candidate in a program of  
 185 teacher preparation leading to professional certification shall complete  
 186 coursework in literacy based on scientifically-based reading research.  
 187 Such coursework shall include a clinical component.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

**HED** Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

ED

**ED** Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP